

What is claimed is:

- [c1] 1. An apparatus for displaying the status of a digital video recording device, comprising:
- a memory for storing a plurality of selectable status parameters indicating functionality of the digital video recording device;
 - a processor for controlling a display of said plurality of status parameters based on received commands to access said memory, so as display at least a selected one of the plurality of status parameters.
- [c2] 2. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein an interface enables a user to send said commands to display said selected status parameter via said processor.
- [c3] 3. The status display apparatus of claim 2, wherein said interface is selected from a remote control device, or from execution keys or buttons provided on the digital video recording device.
- [c4] 4. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein said memory and processor are contained within the digital video recording device.
- [c5] 5. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor controls display of a status menu for selection of at least one the plurality of status parameters based on reception of a command to display the status menu by a user.
- [c6] 6. The status display apparatus of claim 5, wherein the user manipulates keys of a remote control to transmit commands to said processor to display said status menu on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device, and further manipulates said remote control to

graphically select a status parameter from said displayed status menu for display.

[c7] 7. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein a user manipulates designated keys or buttons of a remote control device, each designated key or button corresponding to each of said selectable plurality of status parameters, and

wherein the manipulated key or button causes the correspondingly selected status parameter to be displayed on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device.

[c8] 8. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein a user manipulates designated keys or buttons provided on the digital video recording device, each designated key or button corresponding to each of said selectable plurality of status parameters, and

wherein the manipulated key or button causes the correspondingly selected status parameter to be displayed on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device.

[c9] 9. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a current delay feature which displays how far a recording is behind a live broadcast when a signal corresponding to the live broadcast is paused.

[c10] 10. The status display apparatus of claim 9, wherein the current delay feature is displayed as at least one of an icon, pie-chart and text message form.

[c11] 11. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a live/recorded status feature that displays whether a program being viewed is either live or recorded.

[c12] 12. The status display apparatus of claim 11, wherein the word "LIVE" or "RECORDED" is displayed in flashing form for a finite period of time, depending on the status of the program being viewed.

[c13] 13. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a disk gas gage feature indicating how much of a mass storage device operatively connected to the digital video recording device is consumed by recorded material.

[c14] 14. The status display apparatus of claim 13, wherein said disk gas gauge feature is displayed in at least one of icon, pie-chart and bar-graph form and indicates the percent of the mass storage device capacity used, and/or the percent of the mass storage device capacity that is unused.

[c15] 15. The status display apparatus of claim 13, wherein said disk gas gauge feature is displayed in at least one of icon, pie-chart and bar-graph form and indicates the available recording time remaining before the mass storage device is full.

[c16] 16. The status display apparatus of claim 13, wherein said mass storage device is selected from the group comprising at least a hard disk drive, a magnetic storage device and an optical storage device.

[c17] 17. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a notification indicating the approximate minutes of recording time still available while recording is in progress.

[c18] 18. The status display apparatus of claim 17, wherein said notification is embodied as an out-of-disk space alert feature which is automatically

displayed when the remaining available recording time equals a predetermined default value.

[c19] 19. The status display apparatus of claim 18, wherein said out-of-disk space alert is displayed when there are thirty minutes of remaining available recording time.

[c20] 20. The status display apparatus of claim 18, wherein said out-of-disk space alert may be set to be displayed at various levels of remaining available recording time by a user selecting and displaying a sub-menu for setting out-of-disk space alerts.

[c21] 21. The status display apparatus of claim 17, wherein said notification indicating the approximate minutes of recording time still available is displayed as an animated icon on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device.

[c22] 22. The status display apparatus of claim 18, wherein said out-of-disk space alert has both a video and audio component.

[c23] 23. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a notification indicating the program length of a desired program to record and the approximate minutes of recording time still available while for recording.

[c24] 24. The status display apparatus of claim 23, wherein said notification is automatically displayed prior to or at the start of recording the desired program.

[c25] 25. The status display apparatus of claim 24, wherein said notification is displayed as text message on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device.

[c26] 26. The status display apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is an attributes list which directs the user to other status parameters for display and manipulation, said other status parameters including at least one of a date a program is recorded, a latest date that a stored program has been accessed, size of a recorded or live program, length of a live or recorded program, protect feature to prevent erasure of a recorded program, save options designating how much of a program is to be recorded and/or how long of a time a program is to be stored before being erased, and implementation of a hidden file feature to prevent titles of certain programs from being displayed on a program guide list.

[c27] 27. A method of displaying the status of a digital video recording device on a display device operatively connected thereto, comprising:

storing a plurality of selectable status parameters indicating functionality of the digital video recording device within a memory of the digital video recording device;

receiving commands to display at least a selected one of the plurality of status parameters; and

accessing said memory to display said selected one of the plurality of status parameters on the display device based on said received commands.

[c28] 28. The status display method of claim 27, further comprising controlling display of a status menu on said display device for selection of at least one the plurality of status parameters based on said received commands.

[c29] 29. The status display method of claim 28, further comprising transmitting said received commands by manipulating keys of a remote control so as to display said status menu on said display device, and further manipulating said keys to graphically select a status parameter from said displayed status menu for display.

[c30] 30. The status display method of claim 27, further comprising manipulating designated keys or buttons of a remote control device, each designated key or button corresponding to each of said selectable plurality of status parameters, wherein the manipulated key or button sends said command to display said selected status parameter on said display device.

[c31] 31. The status display method of claim 27, further comprising manipulating designated keys or buttons provided on the digital video recording device, each designated key or button corresponding to each of said selectable plurality of status parameters, wherein the manipulated key or button sends said command to display said selected status parameter on said display device.

[c32] 32. In a system having a digital video recording device, an apparatus for displaying the status of the digital video recording device on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device, comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of selectable status parameters indicating functionality of the digital video recording device; and

a processor for controlling a display of said plurality of status parameters based on received commands to access said memory so as display at least a selected one of the plurality of status parameters.

[c33] 33. The system of claim 32, wherein said memory and processor are contained within the digital video recording device.